

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **WSP to Boost Patrols on Capitol Campus**

Olympia - The Washington State Patrol Capitol Campus Detachment has increased foot patrols and adjusted to a more random patrol schedule to decrease the amount of graffiti and to deter other illegal activities occurring on State property around Olympia.

The State Patrol has the responsibility provide law enforcement services to ensure a safe environment for state employees and visitors on the Capitol Campus grounds. To provide the services required the State Patrol must strike a balance between the rights guaranteed for people to protest peacefully on the Capitol grounds and to maintain public safety.

"We take our responsibility to protect the Capitol Campus very seriously, but we understand the unique access requirements the campus has with the citizens of Washington," said Captain Mark E. Couey, Special Operations Division Commander, Washington State Patrol.

Recent events has led to some state buildings being "tagged" with graffiti costing the state thousands of dollars in cleaning and repair costs. The State Patrol will conduct additional foot patrols on Capitol Campus to increase their presence during times when vandalism and other illegal activities are more likely to occur.

Campus troopers patrol over 3 million square feet of office space in 33 buildings and 435 acres of land, to include five parks. The terrain of the campus grounds requires troopers to utilize a variety of techniques and modes of transportation such as patrol vehicles, mountain bikes and walking patrols. By patrolling campus grounds troopers provide a visual deterrent to unlawful activity. The Capitol Campus Detachment is committed to maintaining a safe environment for state employees and visitors as they enjoy the Washington State Capitol Campus Grounds.

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